

EPA Region III

Office of Public Affairs

EARLY BIRD HEADLINES

Tuesday, October 27 , 2009

*** MORNING HOT LIST ***

Delaware River dredging will commence

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER Deepening the Delaware River to 45 feet could begin as early as January or February, even as officials from New Jersey and Delaware threatened lawsuits yesterday to block the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from proceeding without approval from state environmental regulators. "It's moving - the train's left the station," said U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter (D., Pa.), who led an effort by Pennsylvania's top elected leaders to persuade the corps to act immediately based on "federal supremacy" over navigable waterways. Delaware denied a permit for the work in July, six years after the Army applied for it, but Assistant Army Secretary for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy decided Friday to proceed anyway, concluding, as her predecessor John Woodley had in April, that state approval was not required. Gov. Rendell hailed the decision as a boon for the economies of all three states and "a sound environmental decision as well." He noted that dozens of studies have found dredge spoils to be safe and pledged that if New Jersey and Delaware do not want any of the 16 million cubic yards of material, Pennsylvania will "take it all." Specter said that 10 million cubic yards of the spoils would go to fill an abandoned mine in Hazleton. Other dredge material will be sent to Fort Mifflin, in Philadelphia. No sooner had Rendell and Specter spoken at a news conference in Center City than New Jersey Gov. Corzine declared he was directing his attorney general to "prepare legal action to stop this irresponsible move." He said he was "extremely disappointed" with the corps' decision to "plow blindly ahead."

Editorial: Del. should join NJ and come down hard on river dredging

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL Just when you think you've seen all the tricks the federal government can play to get its way, along comes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -- again -- to upstage all the federal agencies. The Army Corps of Engineers is truly a case study in federal bureaucratic arrogance. Its history with Delaware's congressional delegation is not what one would call warm and fuzzy. The late Sen. William Roth, then- Sen. Joe Biden and Rep. Mike Castle spent many hours fighting with the corps over beach restoration contracts and bridge maintenance over the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal. But this latest flap with the Corps of Engineers exceeds even the biggest of congressional bickering. After nearly a decade of trying unsuccessfully to convince Delaware and New Jersey of the benefits of dredging the Delaware River shipping channel by another five feet, the Corps has simply decided to move ahead with the \$400 million project without the two states' legally required permits. The Corps cites navigational safety. Poppycrack. Both states have objected to the potential environmental hazards that could result in dredging muck that has been virtually undisturbed for 60 years. Both states also question the financial advantages of the additional five feet of channel, which would primarily benefit the Port of Philadelphia. Unknown hazardous metals and toxins are certainly contained in the river bottom. Pennsylvania and its congressional delegation support the dredging, with the state agreeing to store the dredge spoils.

N.J. joins protest against dredging

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL New Jersey dove headlong into a fight over deepening the Delaware River's main channel Monday, with the state's governor, lawmakers and environmental groups all protesting an Army Corps of Engineers plan to start work without permits. Gov. Jon Corzine said the Garden State will sue to block the work if it begins before environmental reviews are completed. "I have directed the attorney general to prepare legal action to stop this irresponsible move unless the Army Corps suspends its plan in favor of allowing the environmental review process to be completed," Corzine said in a written statement Monday. Delaware officials have objected publicly to the corps move, but said Monday they were still considering their response. "Gov. Markell certainly shares Gov. Corzine's concerns and will continue to communicate with the Attorney General's Office about Delaware's legal options," said Joe Rogalsky, Markell's chief spokesman. The federal agency notified Delaware on Friday that it will move ahead this year with the first phase of a \$300 million project to deepen the river's 103-mile main shipping channel to 45 feet from its current 40-foot depth. Work could start by December along a section of the river that includes Delaware waters between Claymont and the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal. Delaware denied the corps a permit for the deepening in July, saying that an eight-year-old application for the work was outdated and failed to take into account changes in the plan. All of the river from Claymont to Artificial Island, about 18 miles southeast of Wilmington, is within Delaware's borders.

Specter, Casey keep coal in mind

PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE WASHINGTON -- A group of coal state senators including Pennsylvania's Bob Casey Jr. and Arlen Specter have negotiated protections for the coal industry into a draft of climate change legislation. But both Mr. Specter and Mr. Casey are withholding full support of the chairman's mark, released Friday by Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., because of concerns about how Pennsylvania would be affected by a transition away from fossil fuels. The bill would give coal plants advance payments to take measures to reduce emissions, provided that the projects would cut emissions by at least 50 percent. It would mandate that coal plants cut emissions by using carbon capture and storage technology by 2020, but only if the technology is available on a large scale at that point. The provisions were negotiated in meetings over several months among the staffs of several senators from coal states, in a group chaired by Tom Carper, D-Del. Sens. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., Max Baucus, D-Mont., Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., and Mark Warner, D-Va., participated as well. The interests of coal were balanced against the wishes of some of the more liberal members of the Environment and Public Works Committee, which will hold hearings on the bill starting tomorrow. The White House, environmental groups such as the Sierra Club and coal industry players have been kept abreast of the negotiations.

Editorial; Peak priority: Mountaintop mines need individual review

PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE It's hard not to sympathize with the miners and their family members who showed up at a recent hearing in Pittsburgh on mountaintop mining. These are precarious economic times, and a good job is worth keeping. But that doesn't mean society should forgo sensible rules on industries that have a big impact on people. Imagine the local water authority without purification standards. Imagine the regional power plant without clean-air standards. Imagine bridges that didn't meet engineering safety designs. None of these ways of doing business is inherently anti-job, but they are rooted in the notion that reasonable laws are necessary for the public good. So it is with mountaintop removal mining. That is the aggressive, efficient method for digging coal that has been controversial in West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Because of a streamlined permitting process, companies are able to skim off vast tracts of forest, remove the coal and dump mining waste in adjacent valleys without undergoing individual review -- sometimes with disastrous effects on water quality, wildlife habitat and communities. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says that between 1985 and 2001 mountaintop mining buried 724 miles of streams and degraded 1,200 miles more in West Virginia. The industry says Appalachia's mountaintop mines yield 130 million tons of coal a year, most of which generates electricity for 24.7 million customers in the east and south.

Editorial: Cleanup of the bay is everyone's job

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE Lycoming County officials got the message via web conference last week: The federal government is serious about cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and backing up orders from President Obama with punishment if requirements aren't meant. That means our region is in do-it-or-else mode. Hopefully, a nutrient credit program that the county is on the cutting edge of will raise revenues that will help farmers and others to meet their end of the mandated cleanup without too much long-term financial pain. What's curious is that these sermons from on high are never accompanied by significant offers of federal grants to help these communities meet the federal environmental mandates. Consider that this cleanup is a reality for most of the eastern half of Pennsylvania. In most of these communities including Williamsport major sewer rate hikes already are in play to pay for the cleanup and related sewer facility improvements. That's fine. We are all for these communities holding up their end. But in this county, that has been done and then some, with a task force voluntarily put together to facilitate things such as a nutrient trading program. But this federal government, which can find millions for pork barrel projects in the jurisdiction of favored congressmen and senators, ought to be able to find a few nickels and dimes to help the communities already doing their share and paying for it bigtime to get the Chesapeake Bay watershed cleaned up.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Delaware River dredging will commence Deepening the Delaware River to 45 feet could begin as early as January or February, even as officials from New Jersey and Delaware threatened lawsuits yesterday to block the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from proceeding without approval from state environmental regulators. "It's moving - the train's left the station," said U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter (D., Pa.), who led an effort by Pennsylvania's top elected leaders to persuade the corps to act immediately based on "federal supremacy" over navigable waterways. Delaware denied a permit for the work in July, six years after the Army applied for it, but Assistant Army Secretary for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy decided Friday to proceed anyway, concluding, as her predecessor John Woodley had in April, that state approval was not required. Gov. Rendell hailed the decision as a boon for the economies of all three states and "a sound environmental decision as well." He noted that dozens of studies have found dredge spoils to be safe and pledged that if New Jersey and Delaware do not want any of the 16 million cubic yards of material, Pennsylvania will "take it all." Specter said that 10 million cubic yards of the spoils would go to fill an abandoned mine in Hazleton. Other dredge material will be sent to Fort Mifflin, in Philadelphia. No sooner had Rendell and Specter spoken at a news conference in Center City than New Jersey Gov. Corzine declared he was directing his attorney general to "prepare legal action to stop this irresponsible move." He said he was "extremely disappointed" with the corps' decision to "plow blindly ahead."

DRPA opts for E. market Street surface line With the blessing yesterday of Mayor Nutter and members of the city's Washington delegation, a proposed trolley line for east Market Street and the Delaware River waterfront moved a step closer to reality. The Delaware River Port Authority selected the Market Street link to the waterfront over two alternatives. The route selection allows the DRPA to begin environmental reviews and preliminary engineering. If the DRPA can find the estimated \$500 million for the project, trolleys could be operating by 2016. After attending the DRPA briefing yesterday, U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter (D., Pa.) said he would seek federal funding for the project. The waterfront line would operate on tracks in the middle of Columbus Boulevard from Pier 70 at the south end to Girard Avenue at the north. The route would provide service between the two casinos planned for the waterfront, Foxwoods in the south and SugarHouse in the north. A Market Street light rail line would run from City Hall to the waterfront.

How Marcellus Shale gas came to be tax-exempt in Pa. Desperate for revenue, Gov. Rendell chose not to tax the "gold rush." HARRISBURG - All through Pennsylvania's 101-day budget impasse, Gov. Rendell spoke of

pain. A recession-weary state had to tighten its belt. Revenues had to rise - income tax, sales tax, new taxes on whole industries. "We can't get this budget resolved," Rendell said, "without everyone feeling some pain." But when the budget was finally signed Oct. 9, one industry came away pain-free. The natural-gas industry's leaders and lobbyists beat back Rendell's proposal to tax gas as it is pulled to the surface from the rich black-rock reservoir known as the Marcellus Shale. So, as drilling rigs are sprouting in the state's northern tier and southwestern corner, the gas those rigs are extracting still isn't taxed. That makes Pennsylvania unique among the 15 states that produce the most natural gas. What's more, the industry persuaded Harrisburg to lease more public land to gas drillers - even as the state's budget for environmental protection was being sharply cut. What happened to Rendell's gas-tax proposal? He says the industry made good arguments for staving it off. He did not want to slow the "gold rush," as he called it, of jobs and commerce the drillers would bring. One legislator came away with a more cynical view. "The same old influential interest groups getting their way," said State Rep. Greg Vitali (D., Delaware). "It was just another day in Harrisburg."

Blog: Green Living: Bagoholic? Here's a ten-step plan The details of plastic bagdom are ever in flux. Cities are trying to ban them. Stores are giving people money to not use them. Today, a major national pharmacy retailer joined the fray. CVS announced what is basically a 25-cent giveback for every bag a customer doesn't use. Great deal, right? Especially when you consider that most grocery stores only give in the neighborhood of a nickel. But there's a catch. You need one of those horrid little cards - loyalty cards is what they're often called - to take advantage of the deal. Actually, you need TWO of those horrid little cards. Do I need to say here how much I hate all those horrid little cards and tags that we're supposed to carry around on our key chains to get a discount at some store or other? Am I alone?

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Editorial; Peak priority: Mountaintop mines need individual review It's hard not to sympathize with the miners and their family members who showed up at a recent hearing in Pittsburgh on mountaintop mining. These are precarious economic times, and a good job is worth keeping. But that doesn't mean society should forgo sensible rules on industries that have a big impact on people. Imagine the local water authority without purification standards. Imagine the regional power plant without clean-air standards. Imagine bridges that didn't meet engineering safety designs. None of these ways of doing business is inherently anti-job, but they are rooted in the notion that reasonable laws are necessary for the public good. So it is with mountaintop removal mining. That is the aggressive, efficient method for digging coal that has been controversial in West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Because of a streamlined permitting process, companies are able to skim off vast tracts of forest, remove the coal and dump mining waste in adjacent valleys without undergoing individual review -- sometimes with disastrous effects on water quality, wildlife habitat and communities. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says that between 1985 and 2001 mountaintop mining buried 724 miles of streams and degraded 1,200 miles more in West Virginia. The industry says Appalachia's mountaintop mines yield 130 million tons of coal a year, most of which generates electricity for 24.7 million customers in the east and south.

Specter, Casey keep coal in mind WASHINGTON -- A group of coal state senators including Pennsylvania's Bob Casey Jr. and Arlen Specter have negotiated protections for the coal industry into a draft of climate change legislation. But both Mr. Specter and Mr. Casey are withholding full support of the chairman's mark, released Friday by Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., because of concerns about how Pennsylvania would be affected by a transition away from fossil fuels. The bill would give coal plants advance payments to take measures to reduce emissions, provided that the projects would cut emissions by at least 50 percent. It would mandate that coal plants cut emissions by using carbon capture and storage technology by 2020, but only if the technology is available on a large scale at that point. The provisions were negotiated in meetings over several months among the staffs of several senators from coal states, in a group chaired by Tom Carper, D-Del. Sens. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., Max Baucus, D-Mont., Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., and Mark Warner, D-Va., participated as well. The interests of coal were balanced against the wishes of some of the more liberal members of the Environment and Public Works Committee, which will hold hearings on the bill starting tomorrow. The White House, environmental groups such as the Sierra Club and coal industry players have been kept abreast of the negotiations.

Countywide sustainability policy to be implemented Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato today will sign into law a broad energy conservation policy to improve efficiency and cut wasteful spending in all county government operations. The new Sustainability Policy for Allegheny County will affect all aspects of county government operations from vehicle fleet management to building maintenance and recycling in county facilities. "We are now setting into place a new county policy on green initiatives that are now an essential aspect of good government," said Mr. Onorato. A key aspect of the new policy, he said, is the creation of an advisory committee that will assist the county in developing and maintaining "green government" practices. The new policy is the brainchild of the Green Action Team, which Mr. Onorato created last year as part of his Allegheny Green Initiative to identify ways to reduce the county's ecological footprint. Since then, the county has implemented a series of energy conservation projects that range from new lighting fixtures at the county jail to a rooftop garden on the County Office Building and a plan to help all municipalities conduct energy audits in their facilities

Point State Park to lose 27 trees The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources plans to cut down 27 mature trees in the park as part of an ongoing project to revamp its river promenades. Contractors working on the project recommended the removal of the trees because they sit on top of water and sewer lines that are being upgraded, said Christina Novak, a spokeswoman for the department. When the project is completed, the department will plant trees of another variety or multiple varieties to replace the honey locusts, she said. Ms. Novak estimated the honey locusts, which are native to the area, have been growing since at least 1974, when the park's fountain was dedicated.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

Latrobe's water problems to clear up Richard Jim, a Latrobe councilman and solicitor for the city's water authority, knows firsthand about the dirty-looking water flowing from the faucets, showers, toilets and washing machines of many city customers. "I've gotten it, too, and I know that it's been a citywide problem," said Jim, 80, who lives with his wife, Rosemary, on Main Street. Authority officials identified the cause of the problem and have addressed it, but it may take more time before the water clears up for some of the authority's nearly 10,000 customers in the city and surrounding areas, Jim said. The authority previously lowered its water's pH level to accommodate Chestnut Ridge Beverage Co., which further purifies the water at its Lloyd Avenue plant, Jim said. "The lower pH level took less of a toll on their equipment, we were told," Jim said.

Ax to fall on locust trees bedeviling Point State Park The state's ax will hit Point State Park this week, but not as part of any cost cutting. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources said Monday it will remove and replace 27 1970s-vintage honey locust trees as part of the park's renovation. "The trees sit on existing water, sewer and electrical lines, which are being upgraded, so that's a problem," said department spokeswoman Christina Novak. The removal is part of a \$37 million project to upgrade the park. Work soon will start to improve the Monongahela and Allegheny promenades along the wharves. Next year, the state will upgrade the fountain. Riverlife, the department's nonprofit partner in the renovation, OK'd the tree removal. Riverlife spokesman Stephan Bontrager said his group agreed to it after talking with department officials, especially foresters. "The honey locusts are toward the end of their overall life span," he said.

Indian Creek Valley Trail extension opens Under sunny skies Monday, the Mountain Watershed Association formally opened the Donegal extension of the Indian Creek Valley Bike/Hike Trail.

\$4 million face-lift of city parks under way Crews soon will begin sprucing up Pittsburgh's four biggest parks. Government leaders and Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy officials gathered Monday to break ground on a nearly \$4 million project to install 100 signs and repair trails and bridges in Frick, Highland, Riverview and Schenley parks. Four years ago, Congress allocated more than \$3 million to provide matching money for the conservancy, a nonprofit group that restores city parks. The conservancy has raised \$780,000 from the state, the Buhl, Eden Hall, Laurel, Katherine Mabis McKenna and Ryan Memorial foundations, and UPMC Health Plan. "This has been a locally driven effort, and we're able to use the federal money to push it over," said U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Forest Hills. "Our public lands are treasures for Allegheny County." The parks' infrastructure, much of it built by the

Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression, has reached the end of its 60- to 100-year life. Compounding the age problem is the city's topography -- steep hills that allow storm water to erode unstable shale soil.

ALLENTOWN MORNING CALL

Easton gets \$1 million to add to its fund for environmental cleanup of Simon Silk Mill

Easton has secured a \$1 million state grant to help clean up asbestos, lead paint and other toxic materials at the Simon Silk Mill, the site of one of the city's biggest public redevelopment projects. City officials hope to see the century-old industrial site redeveloped as an arts complex featuring a museum, artists' lofts and restaurants, a project Mayor Sal Panto Jr. estimates would cost as much as \$100 million. With the new \$1 million Department of Environmental Protection grant, Easton has secured roughly \$7 million in grants to improve the site, which is near 13th Street and Route 22. The environmental cleanup efforts at the 14-acre site, owned by the Easton Redevelopment Authority, are intended to help entice developers to take on parts of the project. "We've been getting a lot of interest in the mill," Panto said. This month's "Movies at the Mill" event, which featured screenings of local filmmakers' work at the Simon site, "opened up a lot of eyes," he said. The latest grant grew out of this year's Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference, hosted by the DEP. "Every year, they hold an extreme brownfield makeover contest," said Gretchen Lippincott, the redevelopment authority's executive director and the city's economic development director. Easton's silk mill project received second place in the contest, but it won the full \$1 million the city requested. The city now has a total of \$1.67 million for environmental cleanup at the site. Crews at the site are working on dismantling the old boiler, which is covered in asbestos, Lippincott said. Other parts of the environmental work -- including dealing with lead paint -- are to happen bit by bit as the project goes forward.

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE

Gas driller to provide clean water It was the phone call Norma Fiorentino had been waiting nearly 11 months to receive, but one she thought would never come. The 66-year-old widow from Dimock Twp. said the phone rang about 9:30 a.m. Monday, and on the other end was a spokesman for Cabot Oil and Gas Corp. informing her that clean water was on the way. On New Year's Day, an explosion shattered an 8-foot concrete slab in Ms. Fiorentino's backyard, and her well water has not been the same ever since. She has not drunk from it since. Cabot had drilled 20 wells into the gas-rich Marcellus Shale within three square miles of Ms. Fiorentino's home. Because of the drilling, the state Department of Environmental Protection determined methane seeped into the drinking water of nine homes in the township, causing a threat of explosion in at least four of them. Ronald Carter and Victoria Switzer also received calls from Cabot's Kevin Bartron. "Isn't it ironic that this is finally happening the day when a big story appears in an area daily newspaper?" Ms. Switzer asked.

Sewer separation project moves forward in Honesdale The Central Wayne Regional Authority agreed Monday to pay Entech upward of \$388,000 for engineering services related to a project to separate sewer lines in the borough. The Mountaintop-based company expects to review documents related to the project and to provide two observers during construction, among other services, on an as-needed basis, said Edward Pietroski, project manager and engineer. Before giving approval to the funding, authority member James LaPoint asked whether each observer will cost about \$127,000. Mr. Pietroski responded that funding will cover the observers' pay, expenses, mileage and other miscellaneous items. Entech has worked as the authority's engineer for other projects, including a \$17.2 million project to replace an aging sewer plant on Buck Cove Road that will serve Honesdale, Texas and Cherry Ridge townships. Funded with about \$16.8 million in Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority grants and loans and a \$400,000 local match, work on the new sewer plant has begun, said Mr. Pietroski. Although the plant is expected to improve capacity, authority members say combined sewer overflows will continue to be an issue unless storm sewer lines and sanitary sewer lines are separated. Using a \$6.9 million Penn- Vest grant, the authority plans to have sewer lines separated in the northern part of the borough to reduce runoff and overflows. Expected to take about 260 working days, the project will begin in December, Mr. Pietroski said. Last month, the authority awarded the work to Leeward Construction of Honesdale, which presented the lowest of seven bids at \$3.72 million. Mr. Pietroski on Monday said Leeward has worked well on previous sewer line separation projects in Honesdale.

Nearly a year after a water well explosion, Dimock Twp. residents thirst for gas-well fix. DIMOCK TWP. -- The problem in the water here erupted on New Year's Day when an explosion in Norma Fiorentino's backyard well shattered an 8-foot concrete slab and tossed the pieces onto her lawn. An investigation by the state Department of Environmental Protection revealed that the culprit - methane in the aquifer because of nearby natural-gas drilling - had seeped into the drinking water at nine homes in the township, causing a threat of explosion in at least four of them. The department found that Cabot Oil and Gas Corp., the company that had drilled 20 wells into the gas-rich Marcellus Shale within three square miles of the blast, had polluted the fresh groundwater with methane, the highly combustible, primary element of natural gas. Inspectors suspected that too much pressure in the mile-deep wells or flaws in their cement-and-steel casings had opened a channel for the gas. Now, the state environmental oversight agency is rethinking its gas drilling regulations with the aim of preventing incidents like the one in Dimock from happening again. An early draft of regulations the department unveiled in September would change the way wells are built and sealed off from drinking water aquifers; mandate that existing wells are tested to ensure they don't leak; increase cementing and casing standards and strengthen rules for replacing drinking water if gas drillers disturb it. Now that the state is poised to become one of the biggest gas producers in the nation, "we want to make sure that we're putting in place for Pennsylvania and for the public over the next 50 years the very best practices and the best materials in our regulations," DEP Secretary John Hanger said.

WASHINGTON OBSERVER-REPORTER

First windmill installation in Greene County pointing the way to 'small wind' savingsWAYNESBURG - Don Quixote would be beside himself, what with all these windmills farms sprouting up on America's landscape. Cervantes' character wouldn't know which imaginary enemy to attack first, and as he said to his squire Sancho Panza, "Fortune is guiding our affairs better than we ourselves could have wished. Do you see over yonder thirty or forty hulking giants? I intend to do battle with them and slay them." "What giants?" asked Sancho Panza. "Those you see over there," replied his master, "with their long arms. Some of them have arms well nigh two leagues in length.

ERIE TIMES-NEWS

Edinboro moves forward with storm water system upgrade EDINBORO -- Borough officials are preparing to take the next step in fixing a flooding problem along a major route through town. Work is wrapping up on replacing a 36-inch storm-water culvert along Willow Street with a 60-inch and a 48-inch culvert to better handle runoff water that travels toward Edinboro Lake. The next phase, which should go out for bid in January and be ready for construction in summer, will replace storm sewer lines and catch basins along Elm Street, borough officials said. Much of the work is being paid for with a \$606,000 grant that Edinboro was awarded in summer through the state Department of Community and Economic Development's H2O PA program. The grant will cover about two-thirds of the project, with most of the remaining cost paid for through Community Development Block Grant funding, officials said. The overall project was designed to remedy a flooding problem along Route 6N that was caused by a 36-inch storm water system that could not keep up with the flows from heavy rains or melting snow. The eastbound lane of Route 6N near Willow Street would flood on occasion, disrupting traffic, slowing or hindering emergency response and damaging roads, recreational facilities and residential property in the Lakeside area, borough officials said.

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

Editorial: Cleanup of the bay is everyone's job Lycoming County officials got the message via web conference last week: The federal government is serious about cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and backing up orders from President Obama with punishment if requirements aren't meant. That means our region is in do-it-or-else mode. Hopefully, a nutrient credit program that the county is on the cutting edge of will raise revenues that will help farmers and others to meet their end of the mandated cleanup without too much long-term financial pain. What's curious is that these sermons from on high are never accompanied by significant offers of federal grants to help these communities meet the federal environmental mandates. Consider that this cleanup is a reality for most of the eastern half of Pennsylvania. In most of these communities including Williamsport major sewer rate hikes already are in

play to pay for the cleanup and related sewer facility improvements. That's fine. We are all for these communities holding up their end. But in this county, that has been done and then some, with a task force voluntarily put together to facilitate things such as a nutrient trading program. But this federal government, which can find millions for pork barrel projects in the jurisdiction of favored congressmen and senators, ought to be able to find a few nickels and dimes to help the communities already doing their share and paying for it bigtime to get the Chesapeake Bay watershed cleaned up.

HAZELTON STANDARD SPEAKER

Corps to dredge Delaware waters Developers reclaiming the Hazleton amphitheater site will compete for material that barges would dredge from the Delaware Bay and Delaware River under a long-awaited project that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decided to start by the end of the year. The corps said Friday that it planned to deepen the channel in the river and bay to 45 feet to handle larger ships, even though Delaware denied permits for the work this summer. If the dredging occurs despite the objections from the governors of Delaware and New Jersey, the project should yield several million cubic yards of material that Hazleton Creek Properties could use to fill mine pits. "We expect this to be very high quality material," Mark McClellan of Evergreen Environmental, a consultant for Hazleton Creek, said. McClellan said Hazleton Creek, however, would have to compete through a bidding process to obtain the material. "We always anticipated the potential is there for about 1.5 million to 2 million cubic yards of dredged material (a year) available for beneficial use somewhere, which Hazleton Creek Properties would love to receive. But there's no guarantee," he said. Since 2006, Hazleton Creek entered contracts to remove 923,000 cubic yards of dredged materials from the corps' storage sites at Fort Mifflin in Philadelphia. The dredged material along with brick, block, stone, soil and other regulated fill allowed Hazleton Creek to cover a former landfill, install service roads and a rail line on the 277 acres where the amphitheater is proposed.

State policed investigating Shickshinny sewer authority MOCANAQUA - State police at Shickshinny have launched a criminal investigation at the Shickshinny Sanitary Sewer Authority, authority members and its solicitor confirmed Monday. The five-member board met with their solicitor Monday afternoon at the authority's headquarters on Main Street in Mocanaqua for an hour-long private executive session to discuss the case. While no one would explain the details of the probe, a copy of a search warrant anonymously sent to The Citizens' Voice indicates investigators are focusing on time cards and work-related documents with the signature of Mark Gensel, an employee at the wastewater treatment plant. Francene Tearpock-Martini, an authority member, confirmed police executed a search warrant Friday at the authority's office and that the focus was Gensel. Without elaborating, Tearpock-Martini said she contacted state police after she "became suspicious" of some activities at the plant. She said she has often butted heads with other authority members, who failed to look into her complaints. "I complained that we needed a special meeting, that we had a problem. They ignored my requests for a month," she said. "I can't comment any further and compromise an investigation." Gensel is the plant operator of the wastewater treatment plant, which serves Shickshinny, Mocanaqua, Union Township, Salem Township and State Correctional Institution at Retreat

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

N.J. joins protest against dredging New Jersey dove headlong into a fight over deepening the Delaware River's main channel Monday, with the state's governor, lawmakers and environmental groups all protesting an Army Corps of Engineers plan to start work without permits. Gov. Jon Corzine said the Garden State will sue to block the work if it begins before environmental reviews are completed. "I have directed the attorney general to prepare legal action to stop this irresponsible move unless the Army Corps suspends its plan in favor of allowing the environmental review process to be completed," Corzine said in a written statement Monday. Delaware officials have objected publicly to the corps move, but said Monday they were still considering their response. "Gov. Markell certainly shares Gov. Corzine's concerns and will continue to communicate with the Attorney General's Office about Delaware's legal

options," said Joe Rogalsky, Markell's chief spokesman. The federal agency notified Delaware on Friday that it will move ahead this year with the first phase of a \$300 million project to deepen the river's 103-mile main shipping channel to 45 feet from its current 40-foot depth. Work could start by December along a section of the river that includes Delaware waters between Claymont and the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal.

Delaware denied the corps a permit for the deepening in July, saying that an eight-year-old application for the work was outdated and failed to take into account changes in the plan. All of the river from Claymont to Artificial Island, about 18 miles southeast of Wilmington, is within Delaware's borders.

Editorial: Del. should join NJ and come down hard on river dredging Just when you think you've seen all the tricks the federal government can play to get its way, along comes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -- again -- to upstage all the federal agencies. The Army Corps of Engineers is truly a case study in federal bureaucratic arrogance. Its history with Delaware's congressional delegation is not what one would call warm and fuzzy. The late Sen. William Roth, then- Sen. Joe Biden and Rep. Mike Castle spent many hours fighting with the corps over beach restoration contracts and bridge maintenance over the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal. But this latest flap with the Corps of Engineers exceeds even the biggest of congressional bickering. After nearly a decade of trying unsuccessfully to convince Delaware and New Jersey of the benefits of dredging the Delaware River shipping channel by another five feet, the Corps has simply decided to move ahead with the \$400 million project without the two states' legally required permits. The Corps cites navigational safety. Poppcock. Both states have objected to the potential environmental hazards that could result in dredging muck that has been virtually undisturbed for 60 years. Both states also question the financial advantages of the additional five feet of channel, which would primarily benefit the Port of Philadelphia. Unknown hazardous metals and toxins are certainly contained in the river bottom. Pennsylvania and its congressional delegation support the dredging, with the state agreeing to store the dredge spoils.

CAPE GAZETTE

DNREC voices Lewes water worries About one week before a vote is scheduled on the Lingo-Townsend Associates rezoning request, a state agency has expressed concerns about the project's impact on the Lewes public water supply. Sent Monday, Oct. 19, to Sussex County Council President Vance Phillips from Lee Ann Walling, chief of planning for the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), the letter states: "DNREC's primary concern is that the development as proposed would adversely affect the Lewes region's available water supply and water quality, which combined would impact public health in the area." It restates concerns expressed during the state's Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS) reviews in March 2007 and April 2009, Walling said. "We wanted to refocus on the PLUS report and make sure people understand the impacts," she said. Most of the Village Centre would be in the City of Lewes' well field, Walling said. However, information contained in the letter does not reflect the current public record as presented by the developers at two public hearings. Dennis Schrader, attorney for the applicants, said the council should not be permitted to even look at the letter since the record has been closed. "It looks like they are trying to influence the outcome of the vote," he said. "Whether you are for or against this application, we have tried to do everything right and use good science."

Wind power comes to University of Delaware campus in Lewes By next spring, the University of Delaware's Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes will convert to wind power for 100 percent of its electricity. The University of Delaware and Gamesa Corp., based in Madrid, Spain, with its North American office near Philadelphia, signed two agreements Monday, Oct. 19, to install a 2-megawatt wind turbine on land northwest of the campus buildings and to establish a research agreement to study offshore wind power.

Beyond the construction of the land-based wind turbine, the partnership's goal is to build the first offshore wind turbine in the Americas in 2011 or 2012.

State gives green light to IR plant Indian River power plant owner NRG Energy has a green light to proceed with a \$500 million investment at the Millsboro facility.

WASHINGTON D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

Ailing planet seen as bad for human health : Advocates' report links climate change to worsening of diseases Climate change will make Americans more vulnerable to diseases, disasters and heat waves, but governments have done little to plan for the added burden on the health system, according to a new study by a nonprofit group. The study, released Monday by the Trust for America's Health, an advocacy group focused on disease prevention, examines the public-health implications of climate change. In addition to pushing up sea levels and shrinking Arctic ice, the report says, a warming planet is likely to leave more people sick, short of breath or underfed. Experts involved with the study said that these threats might be reduced if the federal government adopts a cap on greenhouse-gas emissions. But no legislation could stop them altogether, they said. Emissions already in the atmosphere are expected to increase warming -- and the problems that come with it -- for years to come. "That [a cap on greenhouse gases] really is not enough," said Phyllis Cuttino of the Pew Environment Group, which funded the study. "We can see all these problems coming, but as a country, we haven't done enough to prepare for them." The idea that climate change will be bad for people as well as polar bears is not new: It was explained in detail by a United Nations panel that won the Nobel Peace Prize for its work on climate in 2007.

A maker of electric cars plans to use old GM plant in Delaware California-based Fisker is poised to revamp Wilmington factory. The White House is expected to announce Tuesday a multimillion-dollar deal that will convert a closed General Motors plant in Wilmington, Del., into a factory making electric vehicles. Vice President Biden will make the announcement that Fisker Automotive of Irvine, Calif., is expected to invest \$175 million to retool the plant. Fisker, which will pay the old GM \$18 million for the facility and equipment, is getting tax incentives from the state of Delaware, although officials there declined Monday to say how much. Fisker plans to make a car in Delaware that is being developed under the name "Project Nina" after the ship belonging to explorer Christopher Columbus. Russell Datz, a Fisker spokesman, said that the project's name is meant to be "symbolic of the transfer from the old world to the new in terms of auto technology." The car is expected to cost about \$39,900 after tax incentives.

Federal Diary column: Bargaining rights loom large President Obama wants to issue an executive order creating panels that would foster greater collaboration between management and labor in federal agencies, but it's hard to craft a document that pleases both sides. Union leaders, who had felt good about an early draft, aren't so happy with a revised proposal from the White House this month. But groups representing managers are glad that the October draft responds to their complaints that the earlier document would gum up and slow down federal operations. The big issue is bargaining rights. Under the August draft, the president would have directed department and agency heads to bargain with employees over a set of issues that, federal labor law says, may be negotiated at the discretion of the agency.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

Blog: WVDEP confirms: Blasting starts on Coal River Mountain on The Huffington Post, and word quickly spread via Twitter and other blogs that cross-posted Wasson's piece. Jeff Biggers followed up with another HuffPost piece. The blogosphere was abuzz starting Saturday evening and continuing through the weekend with reports that Massey Energy had started blasting at its Bee Tree mountaintop removal operation on Coal River Mountain in Southern West Virginia. If true, this would be big news -- at least symbolically -- because environmental groups who are trying to stop mountaintop removal have tried to turn this site into an icon in their campaign. They've even proposed that the area's ridges would be better turned into a wind energy facility, rather than blown apart

by Massey to get at its coal (See posts [here](#) and [here](#) for more about the wind proposal and criticism of it) Matt Wasson of the group Appalachian Voices posted this announcement yesterday morning. It's taken me most of the day, but I've finally gotten some confirmation from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection that Massey started blasting last week at this site. (Massey officials have not responded to several inquiries for comment).

Blog: Breaking news: EPA to regulate coal plant air toxics (Friday) This just in from the folks at Earthjustice: *The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has agreed to adopt rules reducing toxic air pollution from the nation's coal- and oil-burning power plants, by November 2011, according to a settlement agreement reached in a federal lawsuit brought against the agency by a coalition of public health and environmental groups. The settlement has been lodged in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Attorneys at Earthjustice, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Clean Air Task Force, Natural Resources Defense Council, Southern Environmental Law Center, and Waterkeeper Alliance filed the lawsuit last December on behalf of their organizations and the American Nurses Association, Conservation Law Foundation, Environment America, Environmental Defense Fund, Izaak Walton League of America, Natural Resources Council of Maine, The Ohio Environmental Council, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and the Sierra Club.*

Commentary: EPA chief creates backlash While not yet a household name, Lisa Jackson, head of the EPA, has ignited a firestorm of controversy in West Virginia. In Jackson's first few months as director, she has transformed the EPA by overturning approval for a coal power plant and placing a series of West Virginia surface mining permits on hold. Jackson's actions have not only put the mining industry on notice that the EPA is no longer sitting on the sidelines, but also put the administrator herself in the middle political crossfire not seen since Rich Rodriguez left the state. The debate over how to mine in the Mountain State has implications that go beyond the geological. The EPA actions have placed the director at odds with a coalition that crosses ideological, occupational and partisan lines.

Editorial: Corridor H: Open the mountains America was transformed by the nationwide interstate highway system launched under President Eisenhower in the 1950s. It made U.S. transportation fast, easy, safe and cheap. But the original interstates partly bypassed Appalachia, because construction in the jumbled mountains is a nightmare. However, in 1964, the Appalachian corridor system was begun, to open the rugged topography to modern progress. Over the decades, four-lane super roads replaced many crooked, dangerous, difficult, two-lane twisters. Today, the 3,090-mile corridor system is 86 percent finished, with 2,672 miles open or under construction. A major gap occurs in Corridor H from Weston to Virginia, which is only half done. President Obama recently sought to cancel the remainder of the east-west link, but West Virginians in Congress are fighting for completion.

Green building not a fad, ZMM architect says CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Is green building design a fad? Adam Krason, an architect with ZMM Inc., posed the question Monday to members of the Charleston Rotary Club at their weekly lunch meeting. When you consider Krason works for a company known for its award-winning green buildings, you could probably guess his answer. "[Green design] has come to the forefront of the national discussion, maybe too much," Krason said. "People may think they're getting brainwashed." According to the U.S. Green Building Council, green or sustainable buildings are designed to enhance and protect ecosystems and biodiversity, improve air and water quality, reduce solid waste and conserve natural resources. Although they cost more to build, green buildings are cheaper to operate and often healthier and more comfortable places to live and work. The council certifies both new and older buildings at different "greenness" levels -- silver, gold, platinum -- through its LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) system. Conventional wisdom often changes through the years, Krason said. For example, "Before World War II it was actually illegal for people with certain disabilities to be seen in public." Then wounded soldiers started coming home. Now all buildings are designed with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards.

Ex-asbestos official gets 1 year for helping rig bids A former head of the West Virginia Capitol's asbestos abatement program was sentenced to a year in prison in federal court in Maryland last week. Paul Prendergast, 47, of

Gaithersburg, Md., pleaded guilty in October 2007 to violating the federal Travel Act by leaking confidential bidding information to a company in Maryland. The firm, which used other firms' bid information to undercut its competitors and win multiple bids, rewarded Prendergast with thousands of dollars in kickbacks and a high-paid position with an associated company after he left West Virginia.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

Blog: Maryland addresses health impact of climate change Maryland is one of only five states that has a published plan to address the health impacts of climate change, according to a new study by the Trust for America's Health, a non-profit group that focuses on disease prevention. The group says that rising temperatures and sea levels are likely to spur more natural disaster, pollution and infectious diseases, which will cause more health problems and emergencies. But only Maryland, Virginia, Washington, New Hampshire and California are planning for this. More than half of the states have climate change plans, but don't specifically work out how they will deal with related health emergencies, says the report, which is called "The Health Problems Heat up: Climate Change and the Public's Health." Some states have no plan at all. To prevent such problems as heat-related sickness, respiratory infections, natural disasters, changes to the food supply and infectious diseases carried by insects, the group has some policy recommendations. They iare in the areas of proper funding and research, interagency coordination, accountability, communications and public engagement, surveillance and modeling and workforce.

Blog: Tuesday is Garbageman Appreciation Day Get up early and go outside Tuesday and thank the guy who makes your sidewalk or alley "cleaner and greener" by picking up all your trash. It Garbageman Appreciation Day! Baltimore City, the company that does trash pick up and the company that runs the trash-to-energy incinerator in South Baltimore plan to make the guys lunch. After witnessing some of the stuff these guys have to touch during a ride along after the switch to once-a-week trash and recycling pick up -- I won't go into too many details, but it involves bleach, spoiled food and dead things -- I'm not sure lunch is sufficient. Speaking of once-a-week pick up, this is probably a good time to ask if the problems with the transition have been smoothed over? Many of the trash guys got new schedules and longer hours with the switch, and many people complained their garbage and recycling wasn't getting picked up. (The trash guys complained people weren't putting stuff out on the right days, in the right place or in a can with a lid, per the law.) So, what do you think of the job these guys are doing?

Blog: State parks consider expanding access to pets Many state parks around Maryland already allow pets in certain areas at certain times of year. But officials say they keep hearing from people who want more access for their four-legged friends. So, the Department of Natural Resources has come up with a plan to expand access at many more parks for at least part of the year. They also want to hear from the public on this proposal. You can post a comment here through Nov. 30. I suspect they will hear from all side. Some people would likely use the parks more for hiking, picnicing, etc., if they could bring their dogs. But I bet others believe their experience would be harmed if more dogs were allowed -- more noise, more poop, more run ins, etc. Raise your paw if you're for the proposal.

Blog: Installing a rain garden Susan Reimer over at Garden Variety is blogging about the installation of her rain garden. She has a low corner in her yard where heavy rain will wash dirt, mulch, nitrogen and roof pollutants into a nearby storm drain.

CARROLL COUNTY TIMES

Eco-minded renovation includes solar-reflective shingles, skylightsTo a homeowner, the sun can be a friend, letting light in through windows and brightening interior spaces. Or it can be a foe, heating up the house making air conditioning units work harder.Ed and Marilyn Cramer, however, have taken on a home renovation project that will

capture the benefits and reduce the negatives of the sun at their Westminster home. The work started Monday and, when complete a month later, may make them the talk of Winged Foot Drive. The biggest project Monday was the installation of special shingles that reflect the sun's rays, reducing the roof's temperature by 20 percent in the summer. "While we get the sunshine, we don't get its heat," Ed Cramer said. Cramer said he researched several different roofing products, and decided on the Landmark Solaris shingles by CertainTeed. It's considered a cool roof technology, he said, and is applicable for an energy tax credit. Reflective shingles have been around for a long time, but in the beginning they were just white, said Don West, of Double Diamond Construction, who is serving as the general contractor for the Cramers' project.

Westminster gets grant for water meters Westminster staff's diligence in dotting its "i's" and crossing its "t's" in a stimulus funding application paid off in big way recently. At Monday night's Common Council meeting, Public Works Director Jeffery Glass announced the city was the recipient of \$821,200 in grant money, after applying for just \$400,000 back in May to fund replacements for residents' water meters. Glass said because the grant applications were complicated and required tight deadlines, the number of completed applications dropped off. Initially, the \$400,000 was to replace old, manual-read meters with wireless broadcasting meters. The city has been updating to wireless-read meters for about 15 years, Glass said. When first talking about the grant earlier this summer, Glass said the city needed to replace about 3,000 meters to have the system totally wireless. The wireless meters enable city staff to read an entire neighborhood's worth of meters in minutes. They can turn on a computer and drive through the neighborhood to pick up the quarterly usage of water customers.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)

Lockheed Martin gets \$145M contract from EPA ROCKVILLE, Md. -- Lockheed Martin Corp. said Monday it received a \$145 million contract from the Environmental Protection Agency to provide support during environmental emergencies in the U.S. and its territories. Under the seven-year contract, Lockheed will provide 24-hour support to the agency's Environmental Response Team, helping it to quickly assess emergencies ranging from the release of oil and hazardous materials to the containment and remediation of uncontrolled hazardous waste sites

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

A more commercial Magnolia Green in Chesterfield? Once dubbed "The Green Monster" for the nearly 5,000 homes it would bring, Chesterfield County's Magnolia Green development may end up a blessing rather than a curse. But first, the county and landowners will need to find a way to bring the Powhite Parkway to the project's front door on Hull Street Road. Magnolia Green won a controversial rezoning in 1991 as the last act of a lame-duck Board of Supervisors. The plan called for 4,886 homes on the almost 4,000-acre site near Otterdale Road. County residents and leaders long have braced for the day when Magnolia Green would take off and bring a deluge of new residents to a part of the county where the roads and schools already are congested.

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS

Highland New Wind in wetlands denial? Although Highland New Wind Development has started construction on its 19-turbine, 39 MW wind project in Highland County's remote Laurel Fork watershed, additional state and federal permits and review may be required for wetlands disturbance. Highland New Wind Development has repeatedly revised its acknowledgement and delineation of wetlands. HNWD initially reported that there are no wetlands in the area where it proposes to cross Laurel Fork by directional drilling under the stream channel. Three different maps have since been presented to authorities, all changing the location, extent, and shape of the wetlands. The latest wetlands map is dated Aug. 6, 2009, three days after Highland County approved HNWD's "final" site plan. The plan approved on Aug. 3 depicted a different wetlands area. Based on new information

and conditions imposed on the project, permits for wetlands disturbance may now be required by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Previous determinations that permits are not required should no longer apply.

MISCELLANEOUS

GLOUCESTER COUNTY TIMES (NJ)

Gov. Andrews want dredging blocked Gov. Jon Corzine has threatened legal action to block the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from beginning its planned dredging of the Delaware River. On Monday, Corzine called on the state Attorney General's Office to investigate whether the Army Corps can legally proceed with deepening the main shipping channel of the river. "I'm extremely disappointed that the Army Corps is trying to circumvent New Jersey's strong environmental protection processes and plow blindly ahead with its dredging plan," Corzine said in a statement. The governor called it "irresponsible" for the federal agency to begin the work before all issues are ironed out. A major bone of contention between New Jersey and the Army Corps is over the dumping of these dredge spoils. The Garden State is against receiving the waste, and has been assured by Pennsylvania officials that a majority of the spoils will be dumped on the other side of the river. "Until the Army Corps has participated in New Jersey's environmental review process, however, I must take action to ensure that the people of our state are fully protected and these spoils are not dumped on South Jersey," said Corzine. Army Corps spokesman Ed Voigt said he had no comment on Corzine's threat. "As of right now, nothing's changed," said Voigt. "There is no legal action. That would be addressed if and when it comes."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

EPA public meetings set on Bay pollution limits The Environmental Protection Agency says it plans to hold public meetings in the six Chesapeake Bay watershed states to discuss upcoming pollution limits. The EPA says the limits, called the Total Maximum Daily Load, are a strict "pollution diet" designed to restore the Bay. The federal agency says the daily loads will establish the pollution cuts necessary for meeting Bay clean-water standards. The hearings will be held in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia and New York in November and December.

REUTERS NEWS SERVICE

Senate panel kicks off climate bill drive A Senate committee on Tuesday launches three long days of hearings on a Democratic climate bill in a bid to further convince an international summit in December that Washington is serious about tackling global warming. The Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee will kick off Tuesday's hearing at 9:30 a.m. EDT with a panel of heavy-hitters from President Barack Obama's Cabinet: the secretaries of energy, transportation and interior and the head of the Environmental Protection Agency. Joining them will be the chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. According to an EPA statement, the officials will focus on "creating a system of clean energy incentives" while "confronting the threat of carbon pollution." The government estimates that the electric power sector contributes 39 percent of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, while 34 percent comes from the transportation sector and 27 percent from the use of fossil fuels in homes, commercial buildings and industry

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Obama targets power grid WASHINGTON -- President Barack Obama and administration officials today will announce \$3.4 billion in spending projects to modernize the nation's electric power system. Mr. Obama will detail the so-called "smart grid" funding at a solar plant in Arcadia, Fla. White House officials say the projects will create tens of thousands of jobs in the "near term" and lay the groundwork for changing how Americans use and pay for energy. The spending is aimed at improving the efficiency and reliability of the U.S. power supply and to help create

markets for wind and solar power, officials said. They also said it would create "smart meters" to help consumers use electricity when demand is low and when rates are cheaper -- for example, by running dishwashers and other energy-thirsty appliances in the middle of the night. The money will be released in the form of grants to applicants, and it must be matched dollar-for-dollar by private funding.